

Message Text

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10
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06

TRSE-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 /036 W
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R 061547Z AUG 76
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3896
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL ZURICH
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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EXCON

FRANKFURT FOR U.S. CUSTOMS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ESTC, GW
SUBJECT: KUEHNE & NAGEL, HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY AND ZURICH,
SWITZERLAND

REF: OEA/CD CASE NOS. 24 (75) - 1 AND 24 (75) - 2

1. SUMMARY. MR. HANS-CHRISTIAN BOYSEN, MANAGER OF KUEHNE & NAGEL (K AND N), HAMBURG, CALLED THE CONSULATE EXCON OFFICER AUG 5 TO REPORT A DEVELOPMENT WHICH HE BELIEVED RELATED TO THE REFERENCED RICHARD MUELLER EXCON CASES. BOYSEN ALSO SAID THE MONTREAL OFFICE OF K AND N HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ACCUSED OF VIOLATING CANADIAN LAW FOR ITS PART IN THE CASES AND ASKED WHETHER THE USG WAS EXERTING PRESSURE IN CANADA AGAINST THE K AND N OPERATION THERE.
END SUMMARY

2. MR. BOYSEN CALLED AUG 5 TO SAY HE HAD RECEIVED A WRITTEN REPORT FROM K AND N, ZURICH OF A CURIOUS INCIDENT THERE. K AND N ZURICH WAS APPROACHED ON JUNE 22 BY A MR. WEGMUELLER OF
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A SMALL SWISS FORWARDING AGENCY, "WEGMUELLER", TO OBTAIN

A BLANK K AND N LETTERHEAD. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT FROM ZURICH, WEGMUELLER ASKED FOR A BLANK K AND N LETTERHEAD AND EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS FOR MR. MUELLER OF SEMITRONIC. THE K AND N EMPLOYEE REFUSED TO PROVIDE THE LETTERHEAD. WEGMUELLER OFFERED FIRST THREE THOUSAND AND THEN SIX THOUSAND SWISS FRANCS FOR THE LETTERHEAD BEFORE GIVING UP. THE NEXT DAY, JUNE 23, WEGMUELLER MADE A SECOND APPROACH TO A K AND N SECRETARY. THE SECRETARY WAS TOLD THAT THE K AND N LETTERHEAD WAS ESPECIALLY GOOD AND THAT WEGMUELLER WANTED A COPY IN ORDER TO DESIGN A SIMILARLY EFFECTIVE LETTERHEAD. THE SECRETARY REFUSED. WHEN MR. BUFF, THE HEAD OF K AND N ZURICH, HEARD OF THE INCIDENT, HE REMEMBERED THE NAMES MUELLER AND SEMITRONIC, AND WROTE BOYSEN. BOYSEN SUGGESTED THAT BUFF COMPLAIN TO THE ZURICH AIRPORT AUTHORITIES, WHERE WEGMUELLER HAS OFFICES NEAR K AND N, AND TO SWISS COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE. BOYSEN ALSO SUGGESTED THAT BUFF CONTACT THE EXCON OFFICER IN THE US EMBASSY BERN. BOYSEN SAID HE BELIEVES MUELLER MIGHT WANT THE BLANK LETTERHEAD IN ORDER TO WRITE A LETTER, PURPORTEDLY FROM K AND N, WHICH WOULD SOMEHOW IMPLICATE K AND N.

3. ON COMPLETING HIS REPORT ON THE INCIDENT IN ZURICH, BOYSEN SAID THAT HE WAS RECENTLY IN MONTREAL TO SEE THE OLYMPICS AND LEARNED THAT K AND N MONTREAL HAS BEEN ACCUSED BY THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP) OF VIOLATING CANADIAN EXPORT LAWS FOR ITS PART IN THE AIR SHIPMENTS IN THE REFERENCED CASES. ACCORDING TO BOYSEN, THE RCMP BELIEVES K AND N QUOTE ORCHESTRATED END QUOTE THE ILLEGAL SHIPMENTS. BOYSEN ASKED WHETHER THE USG HAD PRESSURED THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT INTO MAKING THE ACCUSATION AGAINST K AND N. THE EXCON OFFICER TOLD BOYSEN THAT THE USG HAD UNDOUBTEDLY ASKED FOR COOPERATION FROM THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE INVESTIGATION, AND THAT ANY CHANGES WERE STRICTLY THE RESULT OF THAT CANADIAN INVESTIGATION.

COMMENT: BOYSEN WAS, AS USUAL, VERY CIRCUMSPECT DURING THE CONVERSATION. HE WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE EVEN THE NAME OF THE WEGMUELLER FORWARDING AGENCY AND SOUGHT ASSURANCE THAT NO ONE OUTSIDE THE USG WOULD LEARN OF HIS CALL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE BOYSEN WAS TRYING TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF COMPLETE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPEN COOPERATION. HE IMPLIED, BUT DID NOT STATE, A BELIEF THAT K AND N PROBLEMS IN MONTREAL MIGHT BE DUE LARGELY TO HIS OWN RATHER LIMITED COOPERATION DURING THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION HERE IN HAMBURG. IT APPEARED THAT BOYSEN DID NOT ENTIRELY BELIEVE THE EXCON OFFICER'S STATEMENT THAT K AND N MONTREAL'S PROBLEMS WERE SIMPLY THE OUTCOME OF AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND NOT THE RESULT OF A VINDICTIVE USG CAMPAIGN AGAINST AN UNCOOPERATIVE COMPANY. BROGAN

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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